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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

- 25X1 1. In 1930, before the founding of the Viet Minh, the most powerful political party in Viet Nam was the Viet Nam Quoc Dan Dang (VNQDD), led by Nguyen Tuong Tam, Vu Hong Khanh and Nghiem Ke To. During World War II, all three spent several years in China, where Vu Hong Khanh and Nghiem Ke To served with the Chinese Army. In 1945 they returned to Indochina with Chinese troops to participate in the disarmament of the Japanese. Although these men hoped to gain control of the government through the VNQDD, they proved less capable than Viet Minh leaders. Nghiem Ke To
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- 25X1 2. is now in Hanoi. Vu Hong Khanh, formerly a primary school instructor, was also inexperienced in politics. Although Khanh recently went to France for some intrigue or other, it is fairly certain that the party has no future.
- 25X1 2. Recognizing the weakness of the VNQDD, Nguyen Tuong Tam left the party to form the Viet Nam Dan Chinh Dang (Parti du Vrai Peuple de Viet Nam). This party was unable to attain real power, however, and consequently failed because of lack of armed support. Nguyen Tuong Tam is extremely capable. Formerly the leading Vietnamese journalist, he became well known in Hanoi literary circles under the pseudonym of That Linh.
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- 25X1 3. Under present conditions, VNQDD members are reluctant to cooperate with the Cao Dai Government. The only exception is Tran Van Tuyen, Secretary of State to the Presidency who is extremely ambitious politically. Recognizing the importance of the Cao Dai because of its wealth and armed force, he has asked to become a member of the party and has allied himself with Tran Van Vinh, Minister of Armed Forces, and a leader close to Cao Dai. Tran Van Tuyen works for the party as liaison officer of the Cao Dai troops.

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1. The VNDD suffered lost prestige because members of the party, including Vincent Tuon, Le Thai and Le Van Phuc, were in the employ of the French. From 1946 to 1949 many of the party members, chased from the countryside by the Viet Minh, sought refuge in the cities, where they were consequently arrested by the French. Many of them were forced to work for the French to the detriment of their own party. As a result of the trials, and knowledge that most of the VNDD members were working for the colonial regime and the French and the consequent fall in popularity of the party, the Dai Viet Party gained power and the confidence of the people.

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2. Because of the long period of suffering during the war and Japanese occupation, the Vietnamese have become very skeptical. A great number of officials think only of leading secluded lives for the present until the future becomes clear. Others think only of personal profit and plan to have no concern if anything untoward occurs. Still others remain completely independent and refuse to cooperate with the French in any way. Those who do work for the French do so only because they are well paid. Those Vietnamese who work for the central and provincial government build because they think only of lining their own pockets and can keep the support of their followers only by paying them, whereas the power of the Viet Cong is derived from the enthusiasm it arouses among its followers on an ideological basis.

[] Comment
in Canton.

[] 29 June 1950, Tan is

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